
South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO Overview and Guide for New Delegates/Alternates

The South Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO (SCFL) is an umbrella organization consisting of 100 Private and Public Sector Unions representing tens of thousands of workers in 11 Counties within South Central and South Western Wisconsin. We work with non-profits, unions, governmental agencies, elected officials, university and college systems, job training organizations, apprenticeship programs, cooperatives, and businesses in order to achieve economic and social justice for all workers and their families within our shared communities.

Just as workers join together to form unions because there is strength in numbers and collective action, so too local unions join together in Central Labor Councils, like SCFL (pronounced "scuffle"), for the same reasons. There are approximately 600 Central Labor Councils throughout the United States, of which nineteen are here in Wisconsin, each with a specific geographic jurisdiction.

In essence, the purpose of any Central Labor Council is solidarity between unions in a given geographic area, and sometimes outside that area. This solidarity takes the form of helping a local affiliate by getting the word out and by turning out union activists from other unions for pickets, rallies, communications campaigns, and the like when such help is requested in order to further an affiliate's collective bargaining or organizing efforts with an employer.

This also includes forging alliances with like-minded community and faith organizations. Having many voices, educated on the issues, providing support and encouragement can really make a difference to a union's cause or campaign. This solidarity is also displayed when the affiliates agree to speak with one voice on issues of public concern - legislative and otherwise - and on elections for public office. SCFL also gathers unions together for various other projects such as community service work.

For more information, go to the South Central Federation of Labor's website, www.scfl.org, or find us on Facebook. In addition, SCFL publishes a print newspaper - **Union Labor News** - six times a year.

SCFL Delegates' Meeting Agenda

[Meetings start promptly at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of every month except for January (due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance) when the meeting is held on the fourth Monday.

All Delegates, Alternates, and Guests must register (sign in) with the Sergeant-at-Arms.]

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since spring of 2020, meetings are currently being held virtually via Zoom Conferencing. Some aspects of the meetings have had to be modified and the meeting start time has been moved to 5:30 p.m.

I. Meeting Called to Order by the President

II. Roll Call of Officers

III. Reading of New Credentials

The Recording Secretary reads letters from affiliates appointing new delegates and alternates. These new delegates and alternates and any others who have not previously done so are sworn in.

IV. Reading of Minutes

Typically the reading of the minutes of the previous delegates' meeting are dispensed with in the interest of

time. [They are posted on the SCFL website.] Minutes of the Executive Board are read and the action items, which are actually recommendations to the delegates, are noted. A vote by the delegates to approve the Board minutes is also a vote to accept, as noted, the action item recommendations.

V. Calendar and Communications

Correspondence and other communications of note, which would include information on upcoming conferences or other topics of interest, are discussed and a summary handout may be provided to delegates when they register with the Sergeant at Arms upon entering

the meeting. Anyone wishing a clarification or additional information on these items should ask at this time.

VI. Reports of Officers

A. Financial Secretary-Treasurer

The Financial Secretary-Treasurer notes if any affiliates are falling behind in their per capita payments to SCFL. Delegates vote to accept the report and sometimes vote to provide a per capita payment extension to an affiliate in arrears.

The Financial Secretary-Treasurer also notes the expenditures in the various budget categories for the previous month, as well as any income (including per capita) for that month. This report may be provided in written form. Delegates vote to accept this report.

B. President

The President reports on his activities of the previous month and on upcoming events of interest.

C. Sergeant-at-Arms

Based on the sign in sheet, the Sergeant-at-Arms reports on the number of delegates, alternates, and guests present and the number of unions and other organizations represented by those individuals.

VII. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

SCFL's standing committees are listed in the Constitution and By-Laws. Of these committees, the following are consistently active: Community Services, Solidarity and Support, Education, COPE (Committee on Political Education), Veterans, and Young Workers. During this part of the meeting, updates are given by each committee as to what's going on or being planned. Those interested in serving on a committee should contact the President.

COPE Explanation

The COPE Committee is different than the other committees, is actually elected, and does not generally report during this part of the meeting. The COPE Committee, previously called the COPE Steering Committee, deals with the logistics of our endorsement process surrounding elections. The COPE Committee schedules interview/endorsement meetings, decides whether to have candidate questionnaires or not, and makes recommendations regarding some endorsements. The actual candidate endorsement process is described in the Constitution and Bylaws. Briefly put, when COPE (as opposed to the COPE "Committee") takes up questions of political endorsements, it is actually the delegate body as a whole, most often in a special meeting. It takes a two-thirds vote of those present to make a political endorsement or to recommend a particular position on a ballot issue (a referendum).

VIII. Reports of Union Representatives to Other Boards and Committees

Other Boards and Committees might be allied organizations (such as Worker Justice Wisconsin or the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO); public bodies on which Union representatives serve (Board of Public Works, Police & Fire Commission, Workforce Development Board); or community organizations (such as the United Way).

IX. Unfinished Business

Typically only a resolution or constitutional amendment introduced at a previous meeting or an item tabled at or referred from a previous meeting would be appropriate here.

X. New Business

Although rarely used, this is when a matter that is either urgent or which involves a timeliness issue would be discussed. Usually this is something that has arisen since the last Executive Board meeting.

XI. Reports of Local Unions

This is probably the most important part of the meeting. It is when local unions involved in a struggle - be it bargaining or a legislative battle or organizing - report on their activities and frequently ask for assistance or support. This is also the time for reporting local union news of general interest, contract settlements, grievance/arbitration victories, results of local union elections, etc. In other words, this is the time to let each other know what's going on in our respective unions and also to solicit aid from each other.

XII. Discussion of Political and Economic Issues

This category is pretty broadly construed. It is a time for announcements and also a time to pass motions taking positions on legislative and other matters.

XIII. Good and Welfare of the Federation

This is kind of a catch all category in which additional announcements may be made and we do our food pantry drawing. Purchasing tickets, for just \$1 each, helps to feed those dealing with food insecurity. Proceeds go to the Saint Stephen's Food Pantry located in Monona. A different prize is provided every month.

XIV. Meeting Adjourns

